



VISION 2020 FISCAL RESOURCES TASK GROUP

Meeting Minutes 7:30 PM 3_23_17

Senior Center First Floor Conference Room

ATTENDEES: Gordon Jamieson (Co-Chair), David Gabarino (Co-Chair), Heather Remoff, Pete Howard (Secretary),

Discussions

Private ways - pros & cons

Parking Districts - new state law, Town Manager's proposal

Fire response times - recap of Park Circle Station study

Citizens Corner

First Corner essay (Ref 1) drafted by Pete & enhanced by Gordon. Topic is the basic organization of the Town's government. Review & approve by all. Gordon will submit to Advocate tomorrow.

The next essay will be an introduction to Town Meeting. Topics to cover: the warrant, articles & recommended votes; appropriations, zoning, bylaws, resolutions; the Town budget, the moderator. Also what happens & who attends. Pete will draft. If approved on 4/20 could be published during the 1st week of Town Meeting.

Future plans: Citizens Corners in May & June, topics TBD

Meet w/ Sandy Pooler in the Fall to discuss access to Town documents: Annual Report, Financial Plan, Various Reports to Town Meeting,

NEXT MEETING: 4_20_17

Meetings monthly - 3rd Thursdays 7:30 PM - Usually in Senior Center

Ref 1 Citizens Corner #1

CITIZENS' CORNER

The Town Of Arlington

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Citizens' Corner, a regular column prepared by members of the Vision 2020 Fiscal Resources Task Group designed to help residents both old and new learn more about how our Town works.

In our first column we will provide some history and a general introduction to the Town's administrative framework and elected offices. In future columns we will explore these and additional items in greater detail.

The Town of Arlington was originally settled in 1635 as the Village of Menotomy. It was subsequently incorporated as West Cambridge in 1807, and renamed Arlington in 1867. Arlington is currently home to approximately 43,000 residents and is located within 5.5 square miles.

The Town's Executive body is a popularly elected, five-member Board of Selectmen that appoints a Town Manager and works with the Town manager to administer the daily operations of the Town.

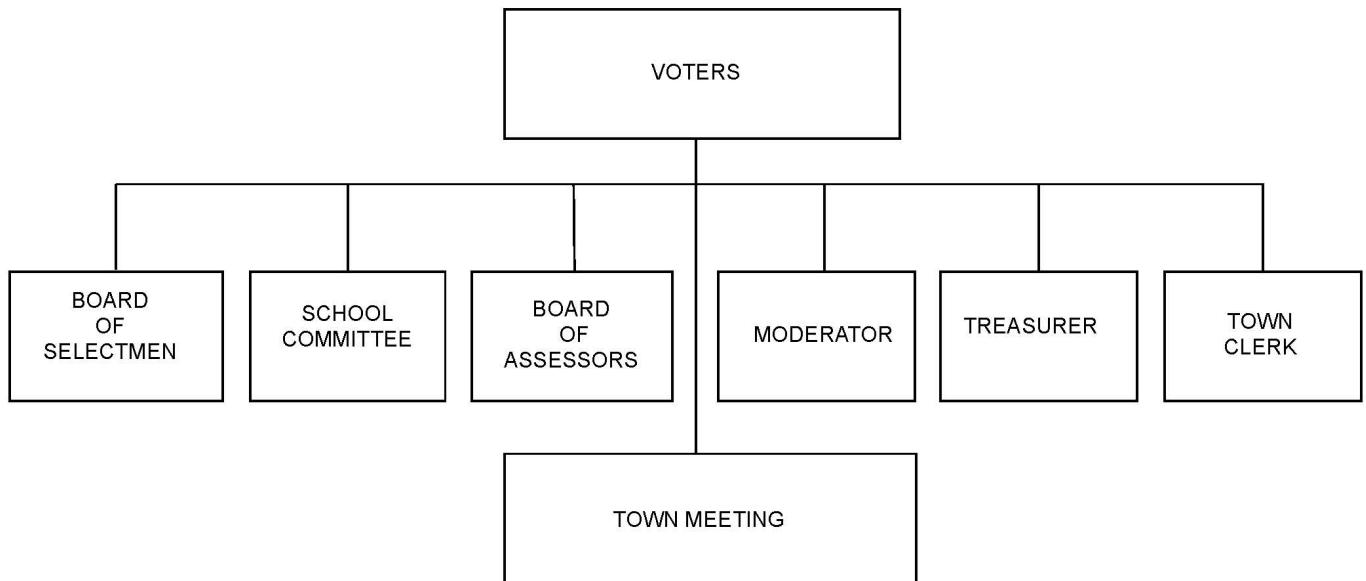
The Town's Legislative body is a representative Town Meeting consisting of 252 members elected from their home precincts (12 members each from 21 precincts) that generally convenes once a year at the Annual Town Meeting.

The School Committee is a popularly elected, seven-member board that appoints a Superintendent of Schools and works with the Superintendent to administer the daily operations of the School Department.

The Town also has several “independent elected offices”, including the Treasurer and Collector, Town Clerk, Town Moderator and a three-member Board of Assessors.

All elected positions, including Town Meeting Members, are elected to three year terms. Terms are staggered so that only a few members are elected or reelected in any one year. The Annual Town Election usually happens on the first Saturday in April, and will occur this year on April 1, 2017. Please remember to vote!

A simplistic view of the Town’s Electoral Organizational Chart is presented below.



Well that concludes our first edition of Citizens’ Corner. In our next editions we plan to cover Town Manager, Town departments, Enterprise funds and Town meeting.

~The Vision 2020 Fiscal Resources Task Group embraces and works to help the Town better realize the following Town goal: “We value Arlington’s efficient delivery of public services providing for the common good. The benefits from these services and the responsibility of taxation will be equitably distributed among us. We will be known for our sound fiscal planning and for the thoughtful, open process by which realistic choices are made in our Town.” We meet monthly and all are welcome to attend.